

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USNATO 03362 031340Z  
ACTION SS-25

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-----085481 031342Z /50

O 031319Z APR 78  
FM USMISSION USNATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0439  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 03362

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: NATO, US, GR, TU, CY  
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER

1. GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS, WHOM I HAVE KNOWN SINCE 1961, WAS IN BRUSSELS OVER THE WEEKEND, AND MY GREEK COLLEAGUE AT EC INVITED ME TO DINE WITH HIM ON SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 1. AS WAS TO BE ANTICIPATED, IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE PROPOSED US ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO TURKEY WERE BROUGHT INTO THE CONVERSATION. ALTHOUGH PAPALIGOURAS CHAIN SMOKED AND PACED UP AND DOWN THE ROOM AS IS HIS WONT, HIS MOOD LACKED THE HYPER-TENSION WHICH MARKED HIM IN HIS MEETING HERE WITH THE SECRETARY DURING THE DECEMBER MINISTERIALS. FOR PAPALIGOURAS, HE WAS CALM AND HIS COMMENTS WERE RESTRAINED. HIS MOOD WAS RESIGNED AND GENERALLY SOMBER.

2. PAPALIGOURAS SAID THE PRIME MINISTER AND HE HAD RECEIVED THE NEWS OF "THE AMERICAN DECISIONS" WHILE IN COPENHAGEN. THE NEWS HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN RECEIVED WITH SOME SHOCK. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD WANTED TO HAVE THE WEEKEND TO HIMSELF, AND PAPALIGOURAS HAD COME ON HERE  
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TO TOUCH BASE ON EC MATTERS. THEY WERE JOINING FORCES AGAIN ON APRIL 3 IN LUXEMBOURG. CARAMANLIS HAD ASKED FOR PAPALIGOURAS' RECOMMENDATION ON HOW TO REACT TO THE AMERICAN ACTION AND PAPALIGOURAS HAD SAID HE WOULD PREFER TO REFLECT ON THE MATTER FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE REPLYING.

3. PAPALIGOURAS EXPRESSED REGRET THAT USG HAD NOT NOTIFIED GOG BEFORE GOING AHEAD WITH SUCH A MAJOR DECISION (SIC). ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE WOULD HAVE GIVEN GREEK GOVERNMENT TIME TO DECIDE HOW TO HANDLE ITS PUBLIC OPINION PROBLEM. IN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEW, USG HAD GIVEN IN TO TURKISH BLACKMAIL; HE DID NOT FOR A MINUTE BELIEVE THAT ECEVIT WOULD TURN TO SOVIETS. HE UNDERSTOOD FROM AVEROFF'S REPORT OF ATHENS CONVERSATION THAT WE WOULD BE NEGOTIATING A NEW DCA WITH TURKEY. HE COULD SEE THE POINT OF THAT BUT, OF COURSE, WE WERE GIVING TURKEY MORE MONEY THAN GREECE... AND SO ON.

4. NOT HAVING ALL THE FACTS AND NOT WISHING TO INTRUDE ON MATTERS WHICH ARE FOR HANDLING BY EMBASSY ATHENS, I CONFINED MY REMARKS TO GENERAL COMMENTS. I STRESSED LONG AND ENDURING TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COMMON PURPOSE BETWEEN US AND GREECE, AND I MADE THE POINT SEVERAL TIMES THAT SURELY IT IS AS MUCH IN THE INTEREST OF GREECE AS OF THE UNITED STATES THAT NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK BE STRENGTHENED AND THAT TURKEY, OUT OF FRUSTRATION, NOT TAKE ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT EVEN BE HARMFUL TO HER OWN INTERESTS BUT WOULD CERTAINLY BE DAMAGING TO THE ALLIANCE AND SPECIFICALLY TO GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES. PAPALIGOURAS DID NOT DISPUTE ANY OF THIS, NOR DID HE ARGUE THAT THE CLOCK MUST BE TURNED BACK ON DECISIONS WITH RESPECT TO TURKEY. NEITHER CYPRUS NOR AGEAN PROBLEMS WERE MEN-  
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TIONED AT ANY TIME DURING THE CONVERSATION. HE CONVEYED, HOWEVER, A SENSE OF DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE AMERICAN ACTION AND SEEMED PREOCCUPIED WITH HOW GOG WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE MATTER AT HOME. BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, PGOV, US, GR, TU, CY, NATO, (BENNETT, W TAPLEY JR), (PAPALIGOURAS, PANAYIOTIS)  
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